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Thai FDA Response to Melamine in Chinese Dairy Products

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Report Highlights:

As a result of the presence of melamine in Chinese dairy products, the Thai FDA is drafting a new regulation prohibiting melamine, cyanuric acid, ammeline, and ammelide in foods imported or sold in Thailand. However, at this time the Thai FDA has not determined the scope of this regulation relative to what products and what countries it will apply to. In addition, other measures have been imposed to ensure the safety of food in Thailand due to melamine contamination.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
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The Thai Food and Drug Administration Announced Milk and Milk-Based Products Sold in Thailand are Free from Melamine

The Thai response to melamine tainted dairy products from China continues to evolve. On September 25, the Thai Food and Drug administration requested retailers and distributors temporarily remove six Chinese origin products containing milk ingredients from retail shelves to over concerns of Melamine contamination. The six milk-based products temporarily withdrawn included Chinese produced Oreo wafer sticks, imported by Diethelm Co., Ltd; Dove milk chocolate bars, Snickers caramel peanut bars and nougat as well as M&M chocolate candies, imported by Mars Thailand; Mentos yoghurt candies, imported by Sino-Pacific Trading (Thailand) Co., Ltd.; and Mao Huad coffee and oatmeal crackers, imported by PR Impact Co., Ltd. Since the recall, the Thai FDA has issued certificates to the distributors to some of these products ensuring that the products are free from melamine and safe for consumers' consumption.

As the Chinese melamine issue has grown in scope, the Thai FDA announced they would be increasing inspection of imported Chinese dairy products. Since September 19, the Thai FDA has run tests on 103 samples of milk and milk products. Among 103 samples of milk and milk products collected for testing, 89 samples were found safe with two samples found containing 0.38 ppm and 0.55 ppm of Melamine contamination. The remaining 14 samples await testing results.

In order to safeguard against the impacts of melamine contamination in imported Chinese dairy products, the following measures has been implemented by the Thai FDA:

- The Thai FDA is drafting a new regulation regarding the prohibition of food contaminated with melamine, cyanuric acid, ammeline, and ammelide to be produced, imported or sold in Thailand. Under this regulation, the Thai FDA allows no more than 1 ppm of melamine or those chemicals in milk powder and liquid milk. For milk containing food products such as chocolate, candies and biscuits, the level of melamine or those chemicals must not exceed 2.5 ppm. Any violation will face a Baht 20,000 (\$588) fine or six months to two years in jail. In addition, importers have to present documentation ensuring that products imported are free from these chemicals. This certificate has to be issued from the government of the exporting countries or private organizations accredited by the government agency of exporting countries. This certificate will be required to be submitted to the FDA officials with every shipment. However, at this time the Thai FDA has not determined the scope of this regulation relative to what products and what countries it will apply to.
- The Thai FDA at all ports has begun holding all shipments of raw dairy materials from China for inspection to ensure the products are not contaminated with melamine prior to release into the market.
- The Thai FDA has instructed all border checkpoints to more rigorously inspect the imports of dairy products other neighboring countries which may be contaminated with melamine.
- Port officials have been instructed to stringently prevent smuggling of milk, milk powder and snacks containing milk ingredients from China.
- The provincial health offices have been instructed to beware of symptoms of kidney stones in children aged less than 1 year and notify the Ministry of Health of any suspicious cases.
- The Thai FDA will initiate a public relations campaign to encourage consumers to purchase milk products carrying the Thai FDA approved label.

The temporary recall of non-U.S. origin American branded products is expected to create a short term dip in the quality confidence of those brands. For example, Dairy Queen Ice-Cream shops have stopped using OREO cookies as ingredients in ice cream. Consumers highly aware of the issue may postpone purchasing these products until their confidence rises. However, the effect of the melamine issue on a select few American brands is expected to be short term and limited in scope. Conversely, promoting the safety and quality of U.S. foods should be emphasized by U.S. exporters and related organizations as Thai consumers are growing increasingly aware of product safety and quality issues among exporting countries. An additional result of this melamine issue is that some Thai food manufacturers are reportedly shifting more food ingredients from the US, Europe and Australia instead of low priced raw materials from China.

Appendices

Table1: Thailand Milk and Cream Imports 2005-2007

Thailand Import Statistics Milk And Cream (Concentrated Or Sweetened)						
Country	2005		2006		2007	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
New Zealand	83,202,957	38,476,520	99,196,964	44,931,455	149,353,949	44,953,725
Australia	56,033,687	24,620,315	63,941,751	29,630,262	52,470,451	13,053,869
United States	15,716,972	7,298,232	13,426,578	6,167,051	41,355,453	8,604,043
Czech Republic	21,023,363	8,895,819	14,270,816	5,482,101	17,596,046	3,931,150
Germany	1,677,844	751,410	876,655	385,037	14,704,621	3,411,029
Netherlands	18,389,439	7,820,746	10,692,128	4,129,139	9,480,149	2,180,116
Ireland	590,444	246,015	4,530,872	1,707,000	9,403,211	2,263,425
Belgium	231,466	47,022	134,022	27,314	8,711,652	2,148,195
China	276,433	115,000	541,392	234,204	7,850,404	2,280,086
India	523,177	265,305	4,550,678	2,179,913	4,819,228	1,180,050
Other	30,959,818	14,611,676	9,919,457	4,606,226	13,261,118	3,761,773
Total	228,625,600	103,148,060	222,081,313	99,479,702	329,006,282	87,767,461

Table 2: Thailand Sugar Confectionary Imports 2005-2007

Thailand Import Statistics Sugars And Sugar Confectionary						
Country	2005		2006		2007	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
United States	6,320,334	7,892,529	8,301,223	9,127,859	14,761,219	9,204,310
China	3,409,961	4,619,174	6,496,383	8,241,422	14,027,790	16,445,831
Germany	1,349,402	808,573	2,483,953	1,421,770	7,285,567	2,261,262
Indonesia	6,267,249	2,640,466	8,185,955	4,243,162	7,223,105	3,276,341
France	2,981,690	4,962,979	3,729,479	5,558,610	6,707,539	5,809,599
New Zealand	3,188,076	4,436,018	2,297,004	2,611,440	6,468,975	1,725,778
Philippines	3,941,328	1,318,993	3,888,892	1,207,634	4,924,968	1,363,620
Japan	1,326,755	378,495	1,732,388	453,466	3,850,329	5,914,796
Belgium	2,884,988	4,864,988	1,839,713	5,725,075	2,837,375	745,044
Netherlands	822,173	984,952	5,436,910	9,212,446	2,784,615	1,338,560
Other	7,319,382	2,929,026	8,567,516	5,039,684	11,833,953	3,301,273
Total	39,811,338	35,836,193	52,959,416	52,842,568	82,705,435	51,386,414

Table 3: Thailand Sweet Biscuits Imports 2005-2007

Thailand Import Statistics Sweet Biscuits						
Country	2005		2006		2007	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Indonesia	9,774,073	4,543,663	7,385,760	3,932,430	7,185,390	3,298,226
Malaysia	3,243,646	2,076,482	4,024,149	2,289,017	4,836,732	2,290,608
Japan	643,382	86,161	554,024	73,394	928,023	108,186
Singapore	780,163	234,975	769,600	208,529	759,175	181,800
United Kingdom	804,111	118,813	841,336	134,207	725,716	90,190
China	366,980	316,091	776,659	530,819	661,669	312,189
Germany	94,482	15,614	503,210	77,538	428,888	52,887
United States	597,482	155,596	562,383	132,300	362,232	70,721
Italy	94,630	34,500	186,861	59,059	292,931	72,439
Belgium	284,027	30,738	285,162	29,677	275,641	31,532
Australia	261,482	61,219	245,902	45,364	239,852	37,915
Other	1,151,914	379,934	1,072,525	340,173	809,067	214,142
Total	18,096,372	8,053,786	17,207,571	7,852,507	17,505,316	6,760,835

Table 4: Thailand Wafers Imports 2005-2007

Thailand Import Statistics Waffles And Wafers						
Country	2005		2006		2007	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Malaysia	7,531,956	3,234,075	8,165,886	2,961,517	9,238,911	2,744,351
Indonesia	1,018,888	471,650	2,475,009	1,072,160	4,803,110	1,896,242
Italy	1,404,684	212,820	1,072,201	199,168	1,327,445	218,916
China	45,086	44,126	334,524	390,159	714,421	402,415
Germany	1,408	111	92,430	12,166	110,262	16,534
Belgium	29,162	2,878	73,834	8,763	98,778	9,804
Taiwan	271	38	-	-	27,606	8,492
Netherlands	-	-	30	1	15,366	1,651
United Kingdom	10,287	1,184	11,798	1,594	13,616	1,539
Spain	-	-	-	-	10,495	513
United States	3,031	765	25,120	6,727	8,726	539
Others	299,794	112,064	213,854	78,292	32,071	4,954
Total	10,344,567	4,079,711	12,464,686	4,730,547	16,400,807	5,305,950

Table 5: Thailand Chocolate and other Food Preparations Containing Cocoa 2005-2007

Thailand Import Statistics Chocolate and other Food Preparations Containing Cocoa						
Country	2005		2006		2007	
	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity	USD	Quantity
Malaysia	3,008,952	753,891	4,638,430	1,262,090	6,647,736	1,706,969
United States	3,208,941	588,958	4,781,487	839,307	5,530,351	809,668
Switzerland	2,898,624	367,193	3,322,168	425,532	3,998,335	468,445
Brazil	456,670	39,996	885,005	62,410	3,001,038	183,698
Italy	3,847,618	304,571	4,010,069	305,442	2,825,622	204,684
Philippines	1,256,752	733,223	2,193,980	829,694	2,585,116	820,527
Belgium	1,603,200	148,924	1,805,339	157,276	2,231,915	200,991
Australia	3,123,615	679,464	2,086,330	331,184	2,035,666	312,422
Germany	916,482	148,914	1,355,167	214,381	1,907,168	247,286
Indonesia	1,167,889	499,927	1,619,826	640,902	1,861,647	676,714
Singapore	820,763	476,800	1,216,246	655,547	1,649,103	767,778
China	217,486	89,303	1,331,121	414,308	1,564,835	468,062
Others	5,233,833	947,045	6,313,768	1,180,367	6,910,756	1,011,860
Total	27,760,825	5,778,209	35,558,936	7,318,440	42,749,288	7,879,104

End of the Report.